



Billing Code: 4710-10

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

22 CFR Parts 35, 103, 127, and 138

[Public Notice 10236]

RIN 1400-AE50

Department of State 2018 Civil Monetary Penalties Inflationary Adjustment

AGENCY: Department of State.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This final rule is issued to adjust the civil monetary penalties (CMP) for regulatory provisions maintained and enforced by the Department of State. The revised CMP adjusts the amount of civil monetary penalties assessed by the Department of State based on the December 2017 guidance from the Office of Management and Budget. The new amounts will apply only to those penalties assessed on or after the effective date of this rule, regardless of the date on which the underlying facts or violations occurred.

DATES: This final rule is effective on [INSERT DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*]

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Alice Kottmyer, Attorney-Adviser, Office of Management, kottmyeram@state.gov. ATTN: Regulatory Change, CMP Adjustments, (202) 647-2318.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 1990, Pub. L. 101-410, as amended by the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996, Pub. L. 104-134, required the head of each agency to adjust its CMPs for inflation no later than October 23, 1996 and required agencies to make adjustments at least once every four years thereafter.

The Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015, Section 701 of Pub. L. 114-74 (the 2015 Act) further amended the 1990 Act by requiring agencies to adjust CMPs, if necessary, pursuant to a “catch-up” adjustment methodology prescribed by the 2015 Act, which mandated that the catch-up adjustment take effect no later than August 1, 2016. Additionally, the 2015 Act required agencies to make annual adjustments to their respective CMPs in accordance with guidance issued by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

Based on these statutes, the Department of State (the Department) published a final rule on June 8, 2016, to implement the “catch-up” provisions. *See* 81 FR 36791. The Department published its first annual update to its CMPs in January 2017. *See* 82 FR 3168.

On December 15, 2017, OMB notified agencies that the annual cost-of-living adjustment multiplier for 2018, based on the Consumer Price Index, is 1.02041. Additional information may be found in OMB Memorandum M-18-03, at: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/M-18-03.pdf>. This final rule amends Department CMPs for fiscal year 2018.

Overview of the Areas Affected by this Rule

Within the Department of State (Title 22, Code of Federal Regulations), this rule affects four areas:

(1) Part 35, which implements the Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act of 1986 (PFCRA), codified at 31 U.S.C. 3801-3812;

(2) Part 103, which implements the Chemical Weapons Convention Implementation Act of 1998 (CWC Act);

(3) Part 127, which implements the penalty provisions of sections 38(e), 39A(c), and 40(k) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA) (22 U.S.C. 2778(e), 2779a(c), 2780(k)); and

(4) Part 138, which implements Section 319 of Public Law 101-121, codified at 31 U.S.C. 1352, and prohibits recipients of federal contracts, grants, and loans from using appropriated funds for lobbying the Executive or Legislative Branches of the federal government in connection with a specific contract.

Specific Changes to 22 CFR Made by this Rule

I. Part 35

The PFRCA, enacted in 1986, authorizes agencies, with approval from the Department of Justice, to pursue individuals or firms for false claims. Applying all previous adjustments in accordance with the 2015 Act, the maximum liabilities under the PFRCA were \$10,957, up to a maximum of \$328,734. Applying the 2018 multiplier (1.02041) provided by OMB, the new maximum liabilities are as follows: \$11,181 up to a maximum of \$335,443.

II. Part 103

The CWC Act provided domestic implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling, and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction. The penalty provisions of the CWC Act are codified at 22 U.S.C. 6761. Applying all previous adjustments in accordance with the 2015 Act, the maximum amounts were as follows: *Prohibited acts related to inspections*, \$36,849; for *Recordkeeping violations*, \$7,370.

Applying the 2018 multiplier (1.02041) provided by OMB, the new maximum amounts are as follows: *Prohibited acts related to inspections*, \$37,601; for *Recordkeeping violations*, \$7,520.

III. Part 127

The Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs is responsible for the imposition of CMPs under the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR), which is administered by the Directorate of Defense Trade Controls (DDTC).

(1) AECA section 38(e):

Applying all previous adjustments in accordance with the 2015 Act, the maximum penalty under 22 U.S.C. 2778(e), or Section 38(e) of the AECA, was \$1,111,908. Applying the 2018 multiplier (1.02041) provided by OMB, the new maximum penalty under 22 U.S.C. 278(e) is \$1,134,602.

(2) AECA section 39A(c):

Applying all previous adjustments in accordance with the 2015 Act, the maximum penalty for 22 U.S.C. 2779a(c), or Section 39A(c) of the AECA, was \$808,458. Applying the 2018 multiplier (1.02041) provided by OMB, the new maximum penalty for 22 U.S.C. 2779a(c) is \$824,959.

(3) AECA section 40(k):

Applying all previous adjustments in accordance with the 2015 Act, the maximum penalty for 22 U.S.C. 2780(k), or Section 40(k) of the AECA, was \$962,295 per violation. Applying the 2018 multiplier (1.02041) provided by OMB, the new maximum penalty per violation is \$981,935.

IV. Part 138

Section 319 of Pub. L. 101-121, codified at 31 U.S.C. 1352, provides penalties for recipients of federal contracts, grants, and loans who use appropriated funds to lobby the Executive or Legislative Branches of the federal government in connection with a specific contract, grant, or loan. Any person who violates that prohibition is subject to a civil penalty.

The statute also requires each person who requests or receives a federal contract, grant, cooperative agreement, loan, or a federal commitment to insure or guarantee a loan, to disclose any lobbying; there is a penalty for failure to disclose.

Applying all previous adjustments in accordance with the 2015 Act, the maximum penalties for both improper expenditures and failure to disclose, was: for first offenders, a penalty of \$18,936; for others, not less than \$19,246, and not more than \$192,459. Applying the 2018 multiplier (1.02041) provided by OMB, the new maximums are: for first offenders, \$19,322; for others, not less than \$19,639, and not more than \$196,387.

Summary:

<i>Citation in 22 CFR</i>	<i>Old Penalty</i>	<i>2018 Penalty</i>
§ 35.3	\$10,957 up to \$328,734	\$11,181 up to \$335,443
§ 103.6 <i>Prohibited Acts</i>	\$36,849	\$37,601
§ 103.6 <i>Recordkeeping Violations</i>	\$7,370	\$7,520
§ 127.10(a)(1)(i)	\$1,111,908	\$1,134,602
§ 127.10(a)(1)(ii)	\$808,458	\$824,959
§ 127.10(a)(1)(iii)	\$962,295	\$981,935
§ 138.400 <i>First Offenders</i>	\$18,936	\$19,322
§ 138.400	\$19246 up to \$192,459	\$19,639 up to \$192,549
2018 multiplier: 1.02041		

Effective Date of Penalties

The revised CMP amounts will go into effect on the date this rule is published. All violations for which CMPs are assessed on or after the effective date of this rule, regardless of whether the violation occurred before the effective date, will be assessed at the adjusted penalty level.

Future Adjustments and Reporting

The 2015 Act directed agencies to undertake an annual review of CMPs using a formula prescribed by the statute. Annual adjustments to CMPs are made in accordance with the guidance issued by OMB. As in this rulemaking, the Department of State will publish notification of annual inflation adjustments to CMPs in the *Federal Register* no later than January 15 of each year, with the adjusted amount taking effect immediately upon publication.

Regulatory Analysis and Notices

Administrative Procedure Act

The Department of State is publishing this rule using the “good cause” exception to the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 553(b)), as the Department has determined that public comment on this rulemaking would be impractical, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest. This rulemaking is mandatory; it implements Public Law 114-74. In addition, the Department of State finds good cause for this rule to be effective upon publication, as Congress has mandated that the penalty adjustments be effective on or before January 15th. *See* 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3).

Regulatory Flexibility Act

Because this rulemaking is exempt from 5 U.S.C. 553, a Regulatory Flexibility Analysis is not required.

Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995

This rule does not involve a mandate that will result in the expenditure by State, local, and tribal governments, in the aggregate, or by the private sector, of \$100 million or more in any year and it will not significantly or uniquely affect small governments. Therefore, no actions were deemed necessary under the provisions of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995.

Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996

This rule is not a major rule within the meaning of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996.

Executive Orders 12372 and 13132

This amendment will not have substantial direct effects on the States, on the relationship between the national government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government. Therefore, in accordance with Executive Order 13132, it is determined that this amendment does not have sufficient federalism implications to require consultations or warrant the preparation of a federalism summary impact statement.

Executive Orders 12866, 13563, and 13771

The Department believes that benefits of the rulemaking outweigh any costs, and there are no feasible alternatives to this rulemaking. It is the Department's position that this rulemaking is not an economically significant rule under the criteria of Executive Order 12866, and is consistent with the provisions of Executive Order 13563. This rule is not an EO 13771 regulatory action because this rule is not significant under EO 12866.

Executive Order 12988

The Department of State has reviewed the proposed amendment in light of Executive Order 12988 to eliminate ambiguity, minimize litigation, establish clear legal standards, and reduce burden.

Executive Order 13175

The Department of State has determined that this rulemaking will not have tribal implications, will not impose substantial direct compliance costs on Indian tribal governments,

and will not preempt tribal law. Accordingly, Executive Order 13175 does not apply to this rulemaking.

Paperwork Reduction Act

This rulemaking does not impose or revise any information collections subject to 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35.

List of Subjects

22 CFR Part 35

Administrative practice and procedure, Claims, Fraud, Penalties.

22 CFR Part 103

Administrative practice and procedure, Chemicals, Classified information, Foreign relations, Freedom of information, International organization, Investigations, Penalties, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

22 CFR Part 127

Arms and munitions, Exports.

22 CFR Part 138

Government contracts, Grant programs, Loan programs, Lobbying, Penalties, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

For the reasons set forth above, 22 CFR parts 35, 103, 127, and 138 are amended as follows:

PART 35 – PROGRAM FRAUD CIVIL REMEDIES

1. The authority citation for part 35 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 22 U.S.C. 2651a; 31 U.S.C. 3801 et seq.; Pub. L. 114-74, 129 Stat. 584.

§ 35.3 [Amended]

2. In § 35.3:

- a. Remove “\$10,957” and add in its place “\$11,181”, wherever it occurs.
- b. In paragraph (f), remove “\$328,734” and add in its place “\$335,443”.

PART 103 --REGULATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION AND THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION IMPLEMENTATION ACT OF 1998 ON THE TAKING OF SAMPLES AND ON ENFORCEMENT OF REQUIREMENTS CONCERNING RECORDKEEPING AND INSPECTIONS

3. The authority citation for part 103 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 22 U.S.C. 2651a; 22 U.S.C. 6701 et seq.; Pub. L. 114-74, 129 Stat. 584.

§ 103.6 [Amended]

4. Amend § 103.6 by removing “\$36,849” and adding in its place \$37,601” in paragraph (a)(1), and removing “\$7,370” and adding in its place “\$7,520” in paragraph (a)(2).

PART 127 – VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES

5. The authority citation for part 127 continues to read as follows:

Authority: Sections 2, 38, and 42, Pub. L. 90-629, 90 Stat. 744 (22 U.S.C. 2752, 2778, 2791); 22 U.S.C. 401; 22 U.S.C. 2651a; 22 U.S.C. 2779a; 22 U.S.C. 2780; E.O. 13637, 78 FR 16129; Pub. L. 114-74, 129 Stat. 584.

§ 127.10 [Amended]

6. Section 127.10 is amended as follows:
 - a. In paragraph (a)(1)(i), remove “\$1,111,908” and add in its place “\$1,134,602”;
 - b. In paragraph (a)(1)(ii), remove “\$808,458” and add in its place “\$824,959”;and
 - c. In paragraph (a)(1)(iii), remove “\$962,295” and add in its place “\$981,935.”

PART 138 – RESTRICTIONS ON LOBBYING

7. The authority citation for part 138 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 22 U.S.C. 2651a; 31 U.S.C. 1352; Pub. L. 114-74, 129 Stat. 584.

§ 138.400 [Amended]

8. In § 138.400:

a. Remove “\$19,246” and “\$192,459” and add in their place “\$19,639” and “\$196,387”, respectively, wherever they occur.

b. In paragraph (e), remove “\$18,936” and add in its place “\$19,322”.

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